

The Real Time

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INTERNATIONAL

Global oil prices fall 5pc, Pakistan awaits fuel relief

The decline may ease pressure on Pakistan, but domestic fuel prices depend on several pricing and policy factors.

(International Desk) Islamabad: Global crude oil prices dropped by around five percent on Monday after a temporary pause in US-Iran hostilities reduced fears of immediate supply disruption in the Middle East. Brent crude fell close to \$92 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate declined to around \$84-85 per barrel.



The oil market had risen sharply in recent weeks because of concerns surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and other major shipping routes. Any tension in the region can affect global supply expectations, shipping costs and energy market sentiment, especially for oil-importing countries.

The recent decline may ease pressure on Pakistan's import bill, as the country depends heavily on imported fuel to meet domestic energy demand. However, a fall in international crude prices does not guarantee an immediate or equal reduction in local petrol and diesel rates.

Officials and market observers say domestic fuel prices also depend on the international product benchmark used for the pricing period, exchange rate movement, import premiums, freight costs, petroleum levy and government decisions. Pakistan kept petrol and high-speed diesel unchanged for July 26-27 at Rs335.18 and Rs383.46 per litre, respectively, because weekend Platts benchmark prices were unavailable.



— Raiwind Road, Lahore —

Abu Dhabi Culture Department sets Dec 11 opening for Guggenheim Museum

The Frank Gehry-designed museum will feature 30 galleries and major indoor and outdoor exhibition spaces in Saadiyat Cultural District.

(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi has announced that Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will open to the public on December 11, 2026, in the Saadiyat Cultural District. The museum is expected to become a major cultural landmark for the emirate and the wider region.

Designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, the museum covers a total built-up area of 80,000 square metres. It includes 30 galleries connected through a central atrium, along with 11,600 square metres of indoor gallery space and 23,000 square metres of outdoor exhibition areas.



Officials said the museum's collection will focus on modern and contemporary art from the 1960s onwards. It will present works from different regions and artistic traditions, offering visitors a broad view of global artistic movements and cultural expression. Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will join Guggenheim institutions in New York, Venice and Bilbao, further strengthening Abu Dhabi's position as an international cultural destination. Details about opening exhibitions, commissioned works, tickets and visitor timings will be announced later. Cultural observers believe the project can boost tourism, support creative industries and enhance Saadiyat Cultural District's global profile.

JICA President Dr Akihiko Tanaka welcomed in Lahore on Punjab CM's directions

The visit is expected to support discussions on Punjab's ongoing and future cooperation with Japan in key public sectors.

(International Desk) Lahore: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Japan International Cooperation Agency President Dr. Akihiko Tanaka was welcomed at Lahore Airport upon his arrival in Punjab.

The visit reflects the importance of Punjab's development partnership with JICA, which has supported cooperation in several public sectors. These include infrastructure, education, healthcare, transport, water management, technical expertise and institutional capacity building.

Officials said the arrival of JICA's president is expected to provide an opportunity for discussions on ongoing initiatives and future development cooperation between Punjab and Japan. Such engagement can help identify new areas where technical support, investment planning and development expertise may improve public service delivery.

Development observers believe stronger coordination with international partners like JICA can support technology transfer, sustainable projects and long-term institutional improvement. They say cooperation in water management, transport, health and education can directly benefit citizens if projects are planned transparently and implemented effectively. The visit may further strengthen Punjab-Japan development relations and open the way for future public welfare initiatives across the province.



Punjab Govt welcomes JICA president Dr Akihiko Tanaka in Lahore on CM's directives

The session highlighted opportunities in agriculture, energy, minerals, textiles, electric mobility and special economic zones.

(International Desk) Lahore: The Punjab Board of Investment and Trade organized a special briefing session to present investment opportunities across the province to a 22-member delegation of US companies. The session was chaired by Punjab Industries and Commerce Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain.

Representatives of SIFC, the Punjab Investment Board, agriculture and industries departments, and leading business groups also participated in the briefing. Officials presented Punjab as a potential destination for foreign investment, industrial cooperation and technology-based business partnerships.

The meeting further discussed cooperation in soybean cultivation, seed development, textiles and value-added minerals. Business observers believe stronger Punjab-US commercial engagement can attract new factories, advanced technology and employment opportunities to the province. They say practical follow-up, investor facilitation and clear project timelines will be important for converting such briefings into actual investment and long-term industrial growth.



The US delegation was briefed on opportunities in agriculture, energy, minerals, textiles, surgical instruments, electric mobility, lithium batteries and special economic zones. Officials also invited US investors to establish manufacturing facilities for modern agricultural machinery in Punjab.

Drone initiative to disperse 10m native seeds, restore ecosystems and boost biodiversity

The initiative will disperse 10 million native seeds using drones and advanced technologies to restore ecosystems and improve biodiversity.

(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: Abu Dhabi is taking a major environmental step by launching an AI-powered aerial seeding project that will disperse 10 million native seeds across the emirate. The initiative is aimed at restoring desert ecosystems, increasing biodiversity and supporting long-term climate resilience in one of the region's most challenging natural environments.

According to officials, the project will use drones, satellite imagery, artificial intelligence and advanced mapping technologies to identify suitable areas for seed dispersal and maximize the chances of successful growth. Native plant species such as Ghaf and Samar will be planted in carefully selected locations to strengthen local ecosystems and ensure long-term sustainability.

Environmental experts say the use of modern technology can make large-scale restoration efforts faster, more precise and more effective. By focusing on native species, the project is expected to improve wildlife habitats, reduce desertification and strengthen the resilience of natural landscapes against climate-related pressures.



The initiative is being viewed as one of the largest environmental restoration efforts in the region. Observers believe it can help Abu Dhabi set an important example in combining innovation with sustainability. If implemented successfully, the project could contribute to greener landscapes, healthier ecosystems and stronger environmental protection for future generations.

NATIONAL

Pakistan braces for fresh monsoon spell as flood risks persist

NDMA has warned of rising river levels, flash floods, urban flooding and landslides in several vulnerable areas.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter) : Pakistan is preparing for another spell of heavy monsoon rainfall as the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rain and thunderstorms through July 28. The National Disaster Management Authority has also warned of rising river levels, flash floods, urban flooding and landslides in several parts of the country.

According to authorities, around 100 fatalities have been reported nationwide since the start of the monsoon season on June 26. Recent heavy rainfall has caused flooding in several cities, disrupted roads in northern regions and damaged homes, crops and public infrastructure.

Officials said provincial administrations have been advised to remain on high alert and strengthen emergency response measures. Authorities have also emphasized timely warnings for vulnerable communities, particularly in low-lying areas, hilly regions and locations close to rivers and nullahs.



Weather and disaster management observers believe strong coordination among federal, provincial and local departments is essential during the ongoing monsoon spell. They say timely alerts, active rescue teams, drainage clearance and public cooperation can help reduce losses. Citizens have also been advised to avoid unnecessary travel during intense rainfall and follow official safety instructions.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi holds key talks with JI emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman

The meeting is being viewed as part of political engagement on national issues, public concerns and governance matters.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi arrived at Mansoorah and held an important meeting with Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman. Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan's Acting Secretary General Nazir Ahmad Janjua and Information Secretary Shakeel Ahmad Tabrizi were also present on the occasion.

At a time when political stability remains closely linked with business confidence, investment sentiment and public trust, continued communication can play an important role in improving national coordination. Observers say such meetings may help strengthen political dialogue if followed by practical steps, responsible communication and a shared focus on public interest.

The meeting is being viewed as part of ongoing political engagement between government representatives and key political leadership. Such interactions are considered important for maintaining communication on national issues, public concerns, governance matters and political coordination.

Political observers believe dialogue between major stakeholders can help reduce misunderstandings and create space for discussion on public problems. They say regular engagement between government officials and opposition or political party leaders can support a more constructive political environment.



Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik forms committee to resolve oil tanker contractors' issues

The committee will review tanker contractors' concerns on freight rates, quotas, pipeline allocation and contract transparency.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The committee will be headed by the Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik. He has constituted a high-level committee following successful talks with a delegation of the Oil Tanker Contractors Association, led by its president Abidullah Afridi. Both sides agreed to resolve outstanding industry concerns through consultation and cooperation.

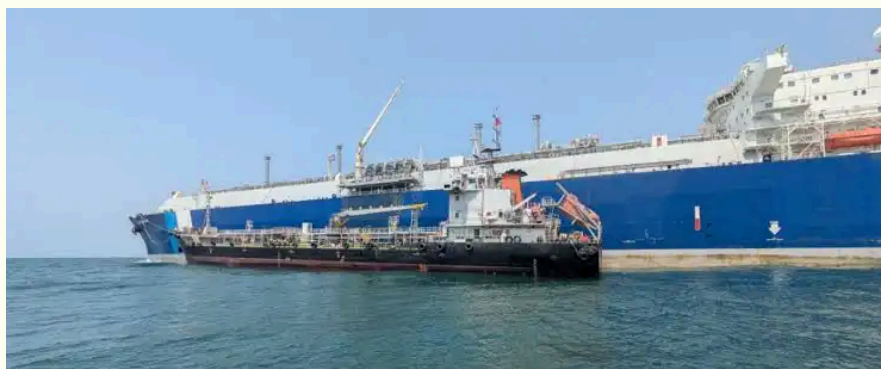
The committee will include representatives from OGRA, the Oil Tanker Contractors Association, the Oil Companies Advisory Council and the Petroleum Division. It has been directed to submit its recommendations within one week.

During the meeting, the contractors raised concerns about freight rates, the road-transport quota, White Oil Pipeline allocation, commercial loading and transparency in contracts awarded by oil marketing companies. The minister directed OGRA to consult all relevant stakeholders, examine legitimate demands and strengthen tanker tracking arrangements.

Ali Pervaiz Malik said maintaining uninterrupted fuel supplies and protecting public convenience remained the government's priority. Market observers believe the formation of the committee can help reduce the risk of disruption in the petroleum supply chain if recommendations are prepared quickly and implemented fairly. They say dialogue between government institutions and transport contractors is essential to prevent pressure on consumers, filling stations and businesses.

Gwadar Port completes second ship refuelling, supplies 1,150 tonnes of fuel

The port supplied about 1,150 metric tonnes of low-sulphur fuel oil to an LNG carrier under safety and environmental rules.



Officials said the refuelling work was carried out under international safety and environmental rules. The use of low-sulphur fuel oil is also important for meeting cleaner shipping standards and reducing environmental risks linked with marine fuel operations.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said the service could help Gwadar attract more international ships in the future. Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Noor-ul-Haq Baloch said regular refuelling operations may support investment, business activity and employment opportunities. Maritime observers believe consistent bunkering services can strengthen Gwadar's position as a commercial port, but the update did not provide confirmed figures for future investment or job creation.

Gwadar: (Staff Reporter): Gwadar Port completed its second commercial ship-refuelling operation on July 29, supplying about 1,150 metric tonnes of low-sulphur fuel oil to the LNG carrier M.V. Excelsior Shenandoah. Ship refuelling at a port is commonly known as bunkering.

According to the published update, the fuel was transported from Karachi by the bunker vessel M.T. Marine Ista. Gwadar Port Authority, Pakistan Customs and other relevant departments supported the operation to ensure smooth coordination and timely completion.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi briefs President Zardari on security situation in KP, Balochistan

The meeting focused on security conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, counterterrorism measures and national stability.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met President Asif Ali Zardari and discussed the overall law and order situation in the country, with special focus on security conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.



During the meeting, the interior minister briefed the president on the current situation in both provinces and the ongoing measures being taken against terrorism. The discussion also covered steps aimed at improving coordination among security institutions and strengthening response mechanisms in sensitive areas.

President Zardari paid tribute to the bravery, professionalism and sacrifices of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and police. He said the entire nation stands with security forces in their efforts to eliminate terrorism and establish sustainable peace across the country.

The two leaders also discussed the current political situation and other important national matters. Security observers believe stronger coordination between federal institutions, provincial authorities and law enforcement agencies is essential for improving national stability. They say continued political and security-level engagement can help build public confidence, support peace efforts and ensure a more effective response to internal security challenges.

Flood damage to Lahore-Faisalabad track suspends Shalimar Express for a month

The Lahore-Karachi train service has been suspended after floodwater affected the Lahore-Faisalabad rail track near Sheikhpura.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan Railways has decided to suspend Shalimar Express, operating between Lahore and Karachi via Faisalabad, for one month after the Lahore-Faisalabad rail track was affected by floodwater near the Sheikhpura railway bridge area.

According to sources, the disruption in rail operations on the Lahore-Faisalabad route led to the decision. Passengers who had already booked seats are being informed about the refund process so they can recover their ticket payments without unnecessary difficulty.

The train was reportedly being operated under the private sector. Instead of changing its route, a request was made to suspend the service for one month due to the track situation and operational challenges caused by floodwater.

Other trains are expected to continue their journey toward Karachi through alternative routes via Sahiwal and Multan. Railway observers believe timely restoration of the affected track is important to reduce passenger inconvenience and normalize operations on the Lahore-Faisalabad section. They say clear passenger communication, quick refunds and regular updates can help maintain public confidence during the temporary suspension.



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Diamer-Bhasha Dam completes 1.5km cable installation for 30-tonne construction crane

The main cable for a 30-ton cable crane has been pulled across the River Indus to support heavy construction work.

Diamer: (Staff Reporter): The Diamer Basha Dam Project has achieved a major construction milestone with the successful pulling of the main cable for a 30-ton cable crane across the River Indus. According to updates from WAPDA and project contractor PowerChina, the cable stretches for more than 1,500 metres between the steep sides of the mountain valley.

A cable crane is a heavy lifting system suspended on strong wires above the construction site. It will be used to carry concrete, machinery and other heavy materials across the deep river canyon during construction of the main dam.



Officials and project observers believe this step can improve construction efficiency and safety by making it easier to move heavy material across a difficult mountainous site. The development is important because large dam projects require strong logistical systems before major concrete and structural work can move at full pace.

However, the milestone does not mean that the dam itself has been completed. It prepares the site for faster and safer heavy construction activity in the coming phases. WAPDA lists the project's current completion target as October 2030.



Jl emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman meets digital media, news representatives to discuss national issues

The meeting focused on public issues including inflation, education, infrastructure, electricity charges and petroleum levy.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Amir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman held a special meeting with heads of digital media platforms, news channels and representatives of prominent social media pages to discuss major national and public issues. During the meeting, participants raised questions on economic challenges, education, infrastructure development in Punjab, petroleum levy, fixed electricity charges, inflation and privatization of government schools. Media representatives also shared concerns linked to public pressure and governance matters affecting ordinary citizens.

Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman presented his views and responses on the issues discussed during the session. The meeting provided a platform for direct interaction between political leadership and digital media representatives, who play an increasingly important role in shaping public debate and highlighting citizens' concerns. Director Media Cell Salman Sheikh and Member Media Committee Shahid Naveed Malik also attended the meeting. Political observers believe such engagements can strengthen communication between political parties and media platforms. They say open discussion on economic and public welfare issues can help bring citizens' concerns into mainstream political conversation and encourage more active public awareness.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Emergency Response Committee holds fifth meeting at NDMA Headquarters in Islamabad

The meeting focused on institutional coordination, response planning and measures needed to handle possible crisis situations.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The fifth meeting of the Emergency Response Committee, established on the instructions of the Prime Minister, was held at the NDMA Headquarters in Islamabad to review national emergency preparedness and response planning.

The meeting focused on institutional coordination, resource deployment, communication mechanisms and measures required to deal with possible crisis situations. Officials reviewed how relevant departments can work together more effectively during emergencies to ensure timely decisions and quick field response.

Participants emphasized that strong coordination among disaster management bodies, provincial authorities and support departments is essential for reducing delays during sudden emergencies. Effective planning can help protect citizens, public infrastructure, housing areas, roads and essential services in vulnerable regions.

Disaster management observers believe such high-level meetings are important for strengthening Pakistan's overall response system. They say improved preparedness, clear responsibilities and better communication can reduce the impact of floods, extreme weather events and other sudden disasters. Stronger national coordination can also improve public confidence by showing that institutions are prepared to act quickly when communities face serious risks.



Punjab reviews Chehlum security arrangements with Majlis-e-Ulema-e-Shia delegation

Officials discussed procession routes, security deployment and coordination with religious leaders to ensure peaceful observance across the province.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Provincial Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Law and Order Chaudhry Salman Rafiq met a delegation of Central Majlis-e-Ulema-e-Shia Pakistan at the Home Department to review security and administrative arrangements for the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and the Martyrs of Karbala.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on procession routes, security deployment, coordination with religious leaders and public safety measures. Officials said maintaining peace, ensuring smooth arrangements and facilitating mourners remain top priorities for the government.

The meeting also focused on close coordination between the administration, law enforcement agencies and religious representatives. Authorities said timely communication with organizers can help address route-related issues, crowd management needs and security concerns before processions begin.

Law and order observers believe effective planning is essential for peaceful Chehlum observance across Punjab. They say strong coordination, proper security deployment, traffic management and cooperation from religious leadership can help avoid disruptions and maintain public confidence. If arrangements are implemented carefully, citizens and mourners can observe the occasion in a safe and organized environment.

Punjab plans 200 water bottling plants to expand free clean water access

The Saaf Pani Authority project aims to provide free 19-litre water bottles to thousands of households daily.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab government is moving ahead with a major plan to install 200 water bottling plants across the province under the Punjab Saaf Pani Authority. Officials said the feasibility of the project has been completed on the special directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Under the programme, water bottling plants will be developed in all 156 tehsils of Punjab to improve public access to safe drinking water. Lahore will receive 22 plants, making it one of the major focus areas of the initiative.



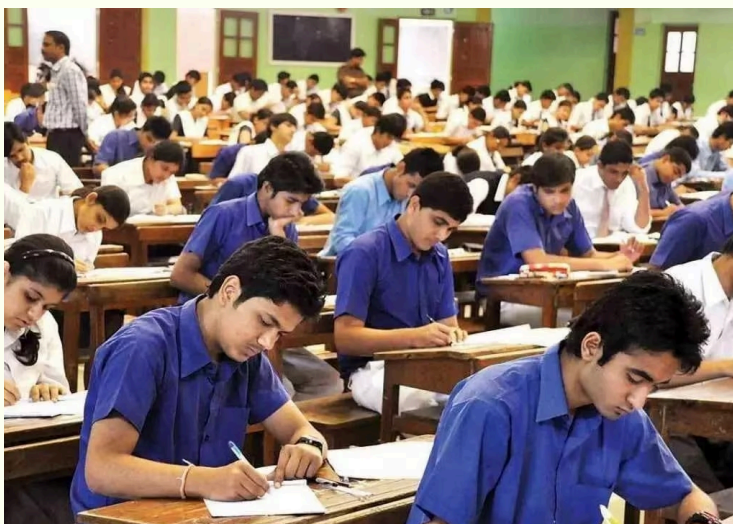
Authorities estimate that more than 4 million people will benefit from the project on a daily basis. The plan also includes free delivery of 19-litre water bottles to around 630,400 households, which could provide relief to families facing limited access to clean drinking water. Public health observers believe the initiative can improve civic services and reduce dependence on unsafe water sources if implemented transparently and maintained properly. They say regular quality testing, efficient distribution and strong monitoring will be essential for the project's success. If completed as planned, the programme could become an important step toward improving clean water delivery and public confidence in Punjab's urban and rural infrastructure.

Punjab extends private school registration to four years with online process

Registration validity may be extended to four years, while applications and building fitness certificates will be processed online.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): An important meeting of private schools was held under the chairmanship of Punjab School Education Secretary Mudassar Riaz Malik to review major reforms aimed at easing registration procedures and improving regulation in the private education sector.

Officials said private school registration will be extended from one year to four years, reducing repeated administrative work for school owners and management. The department also plans to process registration applications and building fitness certificates online, which is expected to reduce visits to authority offices and make the system more transparent.



The meeting also reviewed an academic calendar prepared by the department. According to officials, the calendar includes at least 227 working days, with 190 days reserved for teaching and the remaining days allocated for examinations and related academic activities.

Instructions were also discussed regarding the removal of commercialization fee and strict implementation of the rule requiring private schools to educate 10% deserving students free of cost. Education observers believe these reforms can improve private school governance if implemented fairly. They say digital processing, longer registration validity and stronger compliance monitoring can support both school management and students across Punjab.



Punjab approves Suthra Punjab regulations to speed up waste-to-value projects

The board approved authority regulations and reviewed fee targets, capacity building and waste-to-value projects across Punjab.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): A meeting of the Suthra Punjab Authority Board of Directors was held under the chairmanship of Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique to review financial and administrative matters of Suthra Punjab agencies.

Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad, DG Suthra Punjab Umar Javed, board members and divisional commissioners also participated in the meeting. Officials said the board approved regulations for the authority, marking an important step toward strengthening its operational and administrative framework.

During the meeting, waste collection fee targets, capacity building and faster progress on waste-to-value projects were discussed in detail. The minister said additional landfill sites will be developed where needed to improve solid waste management and reduce pressure on existing disposal systems.

Officials also reviewed ongoing work to produce biogas, organic fertilizer and other useful products from waste. Urban development observers believe such projects can help Punjab move toward cleaner cities, better resource management and new investment opportunities. They say successful implementation will depend on strong monitoring, public cooperation, efficient collection systems and transparent use of funds. If managed properly, the Suthra Punjab model can turn urban waste into an economic and environmental opportunity. Experts say waste-to-value projects can also reduce the long-term burden on municipal budgets by converting waste into usable energy and fertilizer. They believe proper segregation, modern processing facilities and regular public awareness campaigns will be necessary to make the system effective and sustainable.

Aseefa Bhutto briefed on comprehensive stroke centre plan for Sindh at JPMC

The proposed facility will offer advanced stroke treatment, rehabilitation, training, research and a province-wide tele-stroke network.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari was briefed on the proposal to establish a Comprehensive Stroke Center at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, aimed at improving advanced stroke care services in Sindh.



Dr. Syed Fazal Zaidi and Patient Aid Foundation Chairman Mushtaq Chapra presented the project's vision, roadmap and the urgent need for specialized stroke treatment in the province. The briefing highlighted that Sindh records an estimated 500 stroke cases daily, including around 50 severe cases requiring advanced medical care.

According to the proposal, the center will provide treatment for ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes, along with neuro-interventional procedures, neurocritical care and rehabilitation services. It will also support medical training, research and improved clinical response for stroke patients.

Healthcare observers believe the project can become a landmark step for public healthcare in Sindh if implemented with modern equipment, trained specialists and sustainable funding. They say a province-wide tele-stroke network can help connect remote hospitals with expert guidance, reduce delays in treatment and improve survival chances for patients. The center may also reduce pressure on existing emergency and neurology services at major public hospitals.

Experts say timely stroke treatment is critical because delays can increase the risk of death or long-term disability. They believe a dedicated stroke center at JPMC can improve emergency response, support faster diagnosis and provide specialized care to patients who currently face limited treatment options in public hospitals.

The proposed facility can also strengthen medical training and research in neurology and stroke management. By preparing more specialists and improving coordination between hospitals, the project may help build a stronger public healthcare response for serious brain-related emergencies across Sindh.

Punjab relocates Journalist Colony Phase II to Chahar Bagh's J Block under RUDA plan

RUDA will issue notices to eligible journalists, while development charges will be collected according to the previous agreement.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab government has decided to shift Journalist Colony Phase Two to Chahar Bagh J Block, where the project will be developed according to the already approved master plan. The decision is being viewed as an important step toward moving forward a long-awaited housing project for journalists. Development charges and installments will be collected under the previous agreement, while RUDA will directly receive the development charges. Officials said all rules and regulations of Journalist Colony Phase Two will remain applicable. Urban development observers believe timely implementation, transparent eligibility verification and clear communication with applicants will be important for restoring confidence and ensuring that the project moves forward without further delay.

It was decided that the list of eligible journalists will be provided to RUDA immediately. After receiving the list, RUDA will issue notices to qualified applicants and proceed according to the approved framework.

Important decisions regarding the project were taken during a meeting between RUDA and the Information Department. Officials reviewed the implementation process, eligibility matters and administrative steps needed to begin the next phase of work. Experts say the project can provide long-awaited relief to eligible journalists if the process remains transparent and time-bound. They believe coordination between RUDA and the Information Department will be essential for issuing notices.

Punjab orders crackdown on professional begging rings, directs Lahore to become beggar-free

Lahore has been selected for the first phase, with multiple departments assigned to identify organised begging groups and handlers.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab Home Department has ordered a coordinated crackdown against professional begging networks, with Lahore selected for the first phase of the campaign. The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Home Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi.

Officials from Social Welfare, Police, Safe City Authority, FIA, Traffic Police, Health, Education, Civil Defence, prosecution and other departments attended the meeting. The campaign is aimed at identifying organised networks, handlers, repeat offenders and begging hotspots across the city.

Safe City and Traffic Police have been assigned to use technology and human intelligence to trace professional begging groups and their operators. Officials said forcing children, women or elderly persons to beg is a non-bailable offence under the amended Punjab Vagrancy Ordinance.

Authorities also clarified that genuine needy people will not be treated as criminals. Instead, they will be shifted to welfare homes where food, shelter, healthcare, education and skills training will be provided. Social welfare observers believe the campaign can be effective if it targets criminal networks while ensuring protection and rehabilitation for vulnerable citizens.



METRO POLITAN

Hamza Shehbaz visits Kot Kamboh to condole with Mehr Shahbaz over brother's death

The former Punjab chief minister expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and praised the late Muhammad Nawaz's social services.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Former Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif visited Kot Kamboh to condole the death of late Al-Haj Muhammad Nawaz, brother of PML-N leader Mehr Shahbaz Advocate. During the condolence meeting, he expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and offered prayers for the departed soul.

Hamza Shehbaz paid tribute to the late Muhammad Nawaz for his social and welfare services. He said the deceased was a noble and respectable personality who served people with sincerity and remained connected with the community through his positive contribution.

Fateha was also offered on the occasion, while local political figures and community elders were present during the visit. The gathering reflected respect for the deceased and solidarity with the family in their time of grief.

Political observers believe such visits are an important part of community engagement, especially at the local level. They say public representatives can strengthen trust by maintaining contact with citizens during both difficult and important moments. Continued outreach, respectful communication and social connection can help deepen relations between political leadership and local communities.



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PDMA DG Umar Abbas Mela reviews flood response in Ferozewala, Muridke

DG PDMA inspected affected villages, embankment breaches, drainage work and relief camp facilities in Ferozewala and Muridke.

Sheikhupura: (Staff Reporter): On the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Director General PDMA Punjab Umar Abbas Mela visited Ferozewala and Muridke to assess flood-affected villages, submerged areas and protective embankments where breaches had developed. During the visit, officials briefed the DG PDMA on ongoing efforts to repair embankments, close breaches, control water flow and accelerate drainage operations in affected areas. He directed concerned departments to remain active in the field and ensure that response measures are completed without delay.

The DG also inspected relief camps and reviewed the provision of food, clean drinking water, medicines and other essential facilities for displaced families. He emphasized that flood-affected citizens must receive timely assistance and that relief arrangements should remain functional as long as required. District administration, Rescue 1122, the Irrigation Department and other agencies were instructed to strengthen coordination, maintain rescue machinery and boats in vulnerable locations, and ensure special evacuation arrangements for women, children, elderly citizens and other vulnerable groups. Disaster management observers believe effective field monitoring can help reduce losses and improve public confidence during flood emergencies.



Parliamentary secretary Kiran Dar steps up AJK election campaign in Lahore

Kiran Imran Dar urged Kashmiri voters to participate actively as polling for remaining seats approaches on August 2.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination Kiran Imran Dar has stepped up the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's campaign ahead of the second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections. Polling for nine Muzaffarabad Division constituencies and all 12 refugee seats based in Pakistan is scheduled for August 2, 2026. Lahore-related electoral activity includes LA-34 Jammu-I and LA-41 Valley-II, where political mobilisation has increased ahead of voting day.

PML-N has fielded Nasir Hussain Dar from LA-34 and Muhammad Amir Shah from LA-41. According to the supplied campaign remarks, Kiran Dar congratulated Kashmiri voters on her party's performance in the first phase and urged them to take part in the remaining polling stages with full commitment. Party coordinators and union council-level workers are conducting corner meetings, distributing voter slips and contacting registered voters to strengthen turnout. Political observers believe organised local campaigning can play an important role in refugee-seat elections, where voter contact, community networks and timely mobilisation often influence electoral participation and party performance.

LDA vice chairman Mian Marghoob reviews final works on Bhati Chowk underpass

The main underpass structure has been completed, while finishing work and service road development continue around the clock.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Lahore Development Authority Vice Chairman Mian Marghoob Ahmad and Director General LDA Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) Tahir Farooq visited Data Darbar and Bhati Chowk Underpass to inspect final-stage development work on the project. According to the latest LDA update, the main construction of the underpass has been completed, while finishing work and development of surrounding service roads are continuing around the clock. Officials reviewed the pace of remaining work and directed relevant teams to maintain quality and speed at the project site.

During the visit, DG LDA Tahir Farooq also directed officials to establish a designated sitting area for labourers working near the project site. The instruction was aimed at improving basic arrangements for workers involved in the final phase of construction. An APP report published on July 26 stated that the approximately 400-metre, three-lane underpass was developed at a stated cost of Rs1 billion and was being prepared for opening to traffic on July 30. The latest update, however, did not specify when the service roads and remaining finishing work would be completed.



Lahore Commissioner Nauman Yousaf oversees flood relief camp in Muridke

Officials inspected food, medicine and shelter arrangements at a relief camp established for flood-affected families.

Muridke: (Staff Reporter): Commissioner Lahore Division Nauman Yousaf visited Muridke in Sheikhpura early in the morning to supervise flood relief operations and review arrangements at a major relief camp established in a high school, according to the provided official update.

The statement said the commissioner had also visited Muridke the previous night and monitored rescue and relief activities for flood-affected residents. During his visit, he reviewed food, medicines and shelter arrangements being provided to displaced families at the camp.

According to the official statement, local residents and their livestock were safely evacuated from affected areas. Ration and other essential supplies were also being delivered continuously to support people affected by flooding.

The commissioner said the relief camp had been made fully operational, while district officers were present at rescue points to oversee assistance and coordinate field operations. Disaster management observers believe active monitoring by senior officials can improve coordination, reduce delays and strengthen public confidence during flood emergencies. However, the supplied text did not provide official figures for camp capacity, number of evacuees or duration of operations.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expedites work on 9km expressway project

The project aims to improve city roads, ease traffic movement and install modern street lighting on 41 major routes.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter):

Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has announced the rehabilitation of 139 roads at a cost of Rs14 billion, describing the initiative as a major step toward safer, smoother and better-connected city streets.

Under the plan, road repair and improvement work will be carried out across different areas of Karachi to ease traffic flow and improve daily commuting. Officials said the rehabilitation of key routes can help reduce travel difficulties for citizens, transporters and businesses that depend on reliable road connectivity.

The project also includes modern street lighting on 41 roads. Better lighting is expected to improve visibility, support road safety and provide greater public convenience during night-time travel, especially in busy commercial and residential areas.

Urban development observers believe improved roads and lighting can directly support business activity, property access, commercial movement and neighborhood value. They say the success of the project will depend on construction quality, timely completion and regular maintenance after rehabilitation. If implemented effectively, the initiative can improve Karachi's urban mobility, strengthen civic infrastructure and enhance the city's overall public image.



Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi speeds up 9-Km Expressway Road Project

The CDA is rebuilding the damaged Faizabad-Gulberg Greens service road into a wider nine-kilometre route.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Islamabad Expressway service road project in the morning and reviewed the pace of ongoing development work. The project is being carried out by the Capital Development Authority to improve road access along one of the capital's busiest corridors.

According to officials, the damaged service road between Faizabad and Gulberg Greens is being replaced with a wider nine-kilometre road. The upgraded route will have three lanes on each side, aiming to improve traffic flow and provide safer movement for commuters using nearby residential and commercial areas.

During the visit, Naqvi directed officials to speed up the work and complete the project within a few months. He emphasized that unnecessary delays should be avoided so that citizens can benefit from improved road infrastructure at the earliest.

The project is expected to make daily travel easier for people living in nearby housing areas and reduce traffic pressure on the Islamabad Expressway. Earlier reports placed the estimated cost at Rs7.4 billion. However, the latest visit update did not provide a revised cost or an exact completion date.

WEATHER

Khawaja Salman Rafiq reviews flood preparedness, emergency control room in Jhang

Officials briefed the provincial minister on emergency planning, vulnerable areas, rescue readiness and control room operations.

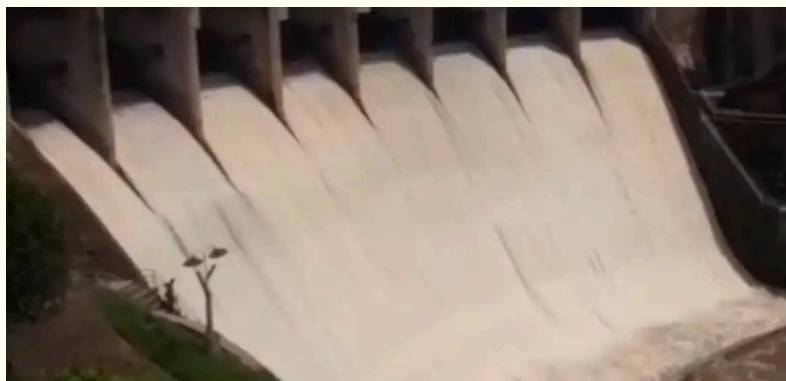
Jhang: (Staff Reporter): Provincial Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafiq visited Jhang district to review preparations for a possible flood situation and assess the readiness of local departments.

During the visit, he was given a detailed briefing on district administration arrangements, advance preventive measures, emergency response planning and the functionality of the district emergency control room. Officials informed him about monitoring of vulnerable areas and coordination among relevant departments.



The briefing also covered rescue readiness, availability of field teams and steps being taken to protect residents in case of rising water levels. Authorities said timely planning and active communication are essential to ensure a quick response during any flood emergency.

Disaster management observers believe early preparedness can help Jhang reduce flood-related losses and protect communities living in vulnerable locations. They say functional control rooms, rescue machinery, clear evacuation plans and coordination between administration, health, irrigation and rescue departments can save lives, protect homes and reduce damage to roads and public infrastructure during emergencies.



Islamabad administration closes Rawal Dam spillways after controlled water release

Authorities carried out a controlled water release after rainfall pushed the reservoir above the prescribed limit.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Islamabad Capital Territory administration opened the Rawal Dam spillways at 6:00 AM after rainfall caused the reservoir's water level to rise above the prescribed limit. Authorities conducted a controlled water release to manage the situation and reduce pressure on the reservoir.

According to available official and credible reports, the spillways were later closed after the water level reached 1,747 feet. Officials said precautionary arrangements were maintained throughout the operation to ensure public safety in downstream areas.

APP reported that Rescue 1122 and other relevant departments were deployed around bridges, streams and vulnerable downstream points during the water release. Their presence was aimed at monitoring movement, preventing unsafe activity near water channels and responding quickly in case of any emergency.

Disaster management observers believe controlled spillway operations are essential during heavy rainfall to protect reservoir safety and reduce flood risks. They say timely coordination among district administration, rescue teams and other departments can help prevent accidents and maintain public confidence during such operations. The specific claim that one person was arrested for bathing in the stream during this operation could not be independently verified from available credible reports. Officials say citizens should avoid entering streams, nullahs and low-lying water channels during spillway operations, even when the release is controlled.

Authorities also advised nearby residents to follow official updates and avoid unnecessary movement close to water channels. They said safety instructions during dam operations are issued to protect citizens and prevent avoidable emergencies. Public cooperation, timely warnings and strict monitoring of downstream points can help reduce accident risks and ensure that water management measures are completed safely.
